

Turkey postpones water conference

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Monday it was postponing a Middle East water conference to avoid disturbing U.S.-led efforts to convene regional peace talks. "To await the outcome of efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference and the maturing of regional conditions to allow the participation of all parties," the Middle East water conference has been postponed to a further date, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Ministry sources said some Arab states, led by Syria, had objected to Israel's attendance and Ankara wished to avoid a row. "We hope the necessary atmosphere to allow the successful convening of the water conference can form as soon as possible with contributions from all parties involved," the statement said. It did not say when the meeting could be held. Turkey's decision to delay the meeting was taken together with the U.S.-based Global Water Summit Initiative, the group organising the meeting. The conference was to have brought Middle East countries and international donors to Istanbul. Turkey, source of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, has been at odds with its downstream neighbours Syria and Iraq, which are alarmed by Ankara's big power and irrigation projects.

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National conference set for Thursday

AMMAN (J.T) — The Royal court has distributed invitations to 2,500 Jordanian personalities to attend a national congress Thursday which will be addressed by His Majesty King Hussein on the latest developments in the local, regional and international arenas and current efforts to find a just and lasting peaceful settlement to the Middle East based on the international legitimacy. Among those invited to the meeting, to be held at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City, are Senate members, Parliament deputies, heads of unions, and representatives of various public sectors.

Menem in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived in Tunis Monday on the latest stop on a Middle East tour that has already taken him to Israel and Egypt. Officials said Mr. Menem, who is of Syrian descent and has offered his good offices in Middle East peace efforts, was due to hold talks with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali during his two-day visit. No meeting was scheduled with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation which has its headquarters in Tunis.

Iran says it lost \$5b in Gulf war

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday it lost more than \$5 billion because of the Gulf war. Vice-President Hassan Ebrahim Habibi told reporters the figure was provisional and the government would send a detailed report to the United Nations once it had compiled a final estimate, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. Mr. Habibi did not say how the losses came about or if Iran would seek compensation from Iraq, which must pay reparations under U.N. Security Council ceasefire resolutions.

Iran frees American jailed for 5 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iranian government has freed an American engineer imprisoned for five years on charges of spying, U.S. officials said Monday. Jon Patits was freed Monday and "is en route to the United States having passed through Europe," said an official who requested anonymity. Mr. Patits, 54, worked for Cosmos Engineers at Iran's main satellite ground station at Assadabad. He was arrested after the facility was bombed by Iraqi jets during the Iran-Iraq war in 1986. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1987 by a revolutionary court on espionage charges.

Pakistan steps up security for Iranians

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Monday it had increased security for Iran's embassy and last week that brought a protest from Tehran. The Foreign Ministry said it did not hold Iran responsible for the assassination last week of a former provincial governor. The son of retired Lieutenant-General Fazle Haq blamed his murder on a Shiite Muslim group and an Iranian diplomat based in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar. Mourners attacked the Iranian cultural centre in Peshawar last Friday after Gen. Fazle Haq's funeral.

Abram charged in Iran-contra case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prosecutors Monday filed two criminal misdemeanor charges against former State Department official Elliot Abrams accusing him of withholding information from Congress about the Iran-contra scandal. One charge accuses Mr. Abrams of not telling the Senate Foreign Relations Committee what he knew about Oliver North's secret network to resupply the Nicaraguan Contras. The second charge contends Mr. Abrams covered up his solicitation of \$10 million from the country of Brunei for the contra. Attorneys for Mr. Abrams met a week and a half ago with Iran-contra prosecutors, indicating some action was imminent involving him.

50 deputies call on Masri to resign

Controversy surrounds petition of unlikely alliance

Government keeping its options open on response

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fifty members of the Lower House of Parliament Monday called on the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri to resign, saying it no longer enjoyed their confidence. A statement signed by leftists, Muslim Brotherhood and Constitution Bloc members said: "The government of Mr. Taher Masri is unable to confront the requirements of the current phase, both on the local and international level, and therefore the undersigned announce that this government does not enjoy their confidence and are demanding its resignation."

But the deputies, who included the members of Jordan's two largest parliamentary blocs, had widely different reasons for signing the petition.

Twenty-three Muslim Brotherhood deputies and four of their independent allies oppose Middle East talks and advocate Islamic Jihad as the only means of liberating all of Palestine. The 18-member Constitution Bloc of former ministers and pro-establishment figures backs the peace process but says the government is too weak to handle the country.

The statement is likely to put pressure and demoralise the government but it cannot have any legal implications as Parliament is currently in recess. Even if an extraordinary session was called to discuss the subject no final vote on confidence in the government can be taken during such session.

Although there was no official government reaction, cabinet sources said they did not understand how the Constitution Bloc



Taher Masri

could fall into a trap set up by others (parliamentary groups) since this implied opposition to the peace process and the national Jordanian congress, scheduled

to be held in Amman on Oct. 10, which is expected to back Jordan's political course in favour of a peaceful settlement.

While the leaders of the Constitution Bloc did not agree with this analysis, a number of members said their group's move went too far and was not in the best interest of the country, even though they signed on.

By Monday evening there appeared to be a rift in the Constitution Bloc ranks as the leader of the bloc insisted all its 18 members adhere to the petition, while some other members of the same bloc disavowed the petition describing it as "not final, flimsy and not in accordance with an agreement among the Constitutional Bloc members."

The leader of the Constitution Bloc, Thounjan Hindawi, told the Jordan Times that he was not in Amman Monday morning (when

the signature were collected) but that he stuck by his bloc's declared position in a communique published Sunday that made the same call (on the government to resign) as the more broad-based petition of Monday.

One Constitution Bloc member, who requested anonymity, charged that "the Monday petition went further than the group's own statement on Sunday by contending that the Sunday communique did not criticise the government's handling of the peace issue and efforts for holding the Middle East peace conference planned for later this month."

"It can be understood from Monday's statement, by its referral to the government's inability to meet requirements on the international level," that we are against the peace conference,

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Kurdish rebels kill 60 unarmed Iraqi soldiers

SULAIMANIYEH, Iraq (R) — Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas Monday shot dead at least 60 unarmed Iraqi soldiers who had surrendered during a fight in the city of Sulaimaniyah, eyewitnesses said.

The soldiers were shot at point blank range while kneeling with their hands on their heads inside a building, the witnesses told reporters.

They appeared to have been captured after hand-to-hand fighting on the outskirts of the city, which was coming under mortar fire and possibly shelling from Iraqi tanks on the outskirts.

Dozens of civilians in Sulaimaniyah were killed by shrapnel or bullets and at least 15 Kurdish guerrillas died in the fighting, the witnesses said.

Sulaimaniyah hospital was treating dozens of casualties. Fighting broke out between Kurdish rebels and Iraqi forces in the town of Kirkuk Saturday and

spread to the city of Arbat Monday.

Sulaimaniyah was relatively calm despite fierce fighting on the outskirts but long queues were forming at petrol stations.

At least dozens Iraqi soldiers, apart from those who were shot after surrendering, have been killed in the fighting in Sulaimaniyah.

Traffic was jammed on the road from Sulaimaniyah to Sayed Saqil refugee camp, about 50 kilometres to the east, the main route for relief supplies to hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees in Halabja, Sayed Saqil and Penjwin.

Kurdish Peshmergas seized control of Sulaimaniyah, the cradle of Kurdish nationalism, after clashes with the army in mid-July in which scores of people were killed.

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EC okays \$2.4b aid package for Soviets

LUXEMBOURG (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) Monday tentatively approved a \$2.4-billion package of food and medical aid for the Soviet Union to help deal with possible shortages this winter.

Dutch Finance Minister Wim Kok said the 12-nation trading bloc would ask the United States, Canada and Japan to provide similar sums for a total Western aid programme of more than \$7 billion.

He said the industrialised nations "should respond quickly and in an appropriate way" to help the Kremlin import any needed food and medicine for the Soviet people.

"If we would not be prepared to respond (to possible Soviet problems), then we would fail to bear our responsibilities," he told a news conference.

Soviet authorities have asked for considerably more money to help them deal with expected shortages because of a poor food distribution system.

President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet officials initially said the financially troubled nation would need \$14.7 billion from the United States, the European Community and other Western nations to get through the harsh winter.

But they recently trimmed that request to \$10.2 billion.

Herman Christensen, the community's top finance official, said the proposed aid package "would be sufficient to protect (the Soviets) against famine for a long period" of time.

As part of the package, Mr. Kok said the ministers agreed to

Shamir blasts Bush over loan delay, restates hardline stand

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday levelled his sharpest attack so far on President George Bush's delay of immigration aid, saying it struck "at the deepest fundamentals of the Jewish and Zionist consciousness."

Although Israel has resigned itself to a 120-day delay in congressional consideration of its request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees, Mr. Shamir used a major policy speech to accuse the United States of failing to understand Israel's sensitivities.

"We were told that (granting the guarantees) would anger the Arabs who have always opposed the immigration of Jews to the land of Israel," Mr. Shamir said.

Israel has been inundated with 357,000 Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants since mid-1989, he said, and linking their needs to "a political matter like the peace process caused us disappointment and pain."

In his speech opening the winter session of parliament, Mr. Shamir paid tribute to the role played by past U.S. administrations, and by Mr. Bush as vice-president, in securing the right of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews to immigrate.

"Therefore, he said, 'the pain and disappointment are especially great that the U.S. administration has, this time, decided to take a measure which is harmful to the deepest fundamentals of the Jews and Zionist consciousness.'"

He said the U.S. leadership had failed to recognize that the Arabs have been struggling against Jewish immigration throughout this century.

"I want to believe, that if the leaders of the United States had known of our great sensitivity to this matter ... they would have thought twice before taking the course which they did," Mr. Shamir said.

Israel says it needs the guarantees to rewrite loans it will raise on world money markets to absorb the immigrants.

Mr. Shamir said his government had refrained from asking for outright aid, "in order not to overburden the American taxpayer."

He said it also "did not request a massive cancellation of debts as was done for other countries, including Egypt," whose multi-billion-dollar

debt was wiped clean in return for its participation in the U.S. led Gulf war coalition.

Arab governments fear the U.S. aid would be used to settle immigrants in the occupied territories, and Washington has insisted on Israeli undertakings that the money will not be used for this purpose.

Mr. Shamir did not refer, in his speech to U.S. requests for a freeze of Jewish settlement construction in the occupied territories. He said these areas, along with Israel, were enjoying "a construction drive unmatched since the establishment of the state" in 1948.

Mr. Shamir also took a tough stand Monday on proposed Middle East peace talks and said it was unclear if a conference would ever take place.

"Today we still do not know if, when, or where the peace process will start," Mr. Shamir said in his speech.

In a series of uncompromising statements, the hardline leader rejected exchanging occupied Arab territory for peace as sought by Washington, and vowed to block the reconvening of the opening conference if direct negotiations stall.

Mr. Shamir also questioned the Arab peace initiative between Israel and each Arab neighbour. The conference "will have no powers" and Israel would not agree to it reconvening at any stage.

"The Palestinians should be part of a Jordanian delegation. They must be approved in advance by Israel, and exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), if the Palestinian delegates 'announce at any stage that they were appointed by or represent the PLO ... Israel will not sit with them'."

"We hope and assume" that the Soviet Union will restore diplomatic relations with Israel, as promised, before taking its seat at the conference.

Jerusalem, including the Arab sector occupied by Israel in the 1967 war, will remain "united" as Israel's capital.

Mr. Shamir said Israel did not accept the interpretation of the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 as prescribing "a complete withdrawal from the occupied territories."

The "operative bottom line" of these resolutions "is the existence of negotiations towards the establishment of a 'reasonable defensive bound-

aries."

But he rejected President Bush's formula of "territories for peace," saying that if the Arabs made land their central demand without offering "convincing evidence" of their peaceful intentions, "we will draw the appropriate conclusion."

Mr. Shamir said Israel's priority in peace moves was to determine whether the Arabs had undergone a "true change of heart" towards Israel, whether they recognise Israel's existence and are ready to live with Israel in peace, whether they will cease harbouring "terrorists," and whether they will grant their Jewish minorities equal rights and freedom to emigrate.

He said some Arab leaders expected the United States to pressure Israel for concessions.

"Those who feel this way are completely mistaken," he said, adding: "The role of the United States must be that of a fair mediator, seeking ways to bring the parties closer and to bridge the gaps between them."

He listed these conditions for Israeli participation:

— The peace conference must be a one- or two-day emergency follow-up "convincing evidence" of their peaceful intentions.

— The Palestinians should be part of a Jordanian delegation. They must be approved in advance by Israel, and exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), if the Palestinian delegates "announce at any stage that they were appointed by or represent the PLO ... Israel will not sit with them."

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U.N. destroys gunpowder, spikes 'supergun' parts

BAGHDAD (R) — One tonne of gunpowder which was to have fired shells from Iraq's "superguns" went up in smoke under the eyes of the United Nations Monday. "It made a nice big fire," said Douglas England, head of the U.N. team charged with destroying Iraq's ballistic weapons under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. The team, one of many sent to Iraq with a mandate to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction, is also supervising the destruction of Iraq's superguns, a task which should be largely complete by Tuesday, Mr. England said. Only one of the superguns was ever assembled but parts for four others have been found at Iskandariya, 50 kilometres south of Baghdad. They were to have been assembled into guns varying from 30 to 150 metres in length. Three of them had a calibre of 350mm and two were so-called "doomsday guns" with a calibre of 1000 mm. "The tubes are being cut at each end so that they can never be fixed together again," Mr. England said on return to his Baghdad hotel. Only one gun, a 350mm model with a barrel 52.5 metres long, was ever tested, at Jabal Hamrayn, 200 km north of Baghdad. Mr. England said it had fired shells up to 200 km.

Palestinians mark Jerusalem massacre under Israeli siege

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israeli police Monday barred Palestinians from this Holy City and surrounded buildings where tearful families prayed and lit candles to mark the killing of at least 18 Arabs by police in the Old City a year ago.

Paramilitary police and soldiers turned back residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to prevent trouble ahead of the Oct. 8 anniversary of the bloodiest civil unrest since Israel occupied the territories and Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 war.

Families, Palestinian leaders and Muslim and Christian clergy held two memorial services in East Jerusalem theatres where videotapes, books, and spent cartridges of the Al Aqsa massacre were displayed.

The massive police presence prevented any public outpouring of grief or protest.

"October eighth is a major day in Palestinian history," prominent Palestinian Faisal Al Hussein told reporters. "It shows every Palestinian what (Israeli) occupation means."

One year ago, the huge Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques compound, Islam's holiest site after Mecca and Medina, echoed to the crackle of gunfire as police chased thousands of Palestinians out of the complex.

Seventeen Arabs were killed by police in the complex, some shot from behind while fleeing. Another was killed nearby in the narrow streets of the walled Old City.

Mr. Hussein, the main go-between in talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Palestinian leadership, said the killings highlighted the need for Palestinians to receive their legitimate national rights and for Mr. Baker's attempt to convene a Middle East peace conference this month to succeed.

The killings, for which no police officer has been prosecuted, brought Israel worldwide condemnation. "Tomorrow will be a day of sorrow. There will be no crying but, for sure, in the heart of every Palestinian we have this feeling that we are in the middle of a jungle where we are hunted...like they were hunted by police in the mosque," Mr. Hussein said.

Relatives, sitting beside pictures of the slain, said they were sorrowful yet proud their sons and husbands, and in one case a mother, had died defending the mosques from Jewish extremists.

They were referring to a group of ultra-nationalists called the Temple Mount Faithful who try each year to capture the site from Muslims. "Last year, as always, the Israeli authorities prevented the group from entering the area to lay a symbolic cornerstone for the rebuilding of the Biblical Jewish temple. But thousands of Arabs gathered, fearing extremists would enter the complex."

An Israeli government-appointed inquiry in November blamed Palestinians for starting the violence by stopping Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall, which abuts the mosque complex. The inquiry said police had opened fire because their lives were threatened.

A coroner's report in July, however, challenged this. Judge Ezra Kama said the accidental setting off of a police tear-gas grenade, not Palestinian, ignited the violence. He criticised the police for firing but recommended against putting police officers on trial.

Palestinians accuse police of deliberately firing tear-gas at women mourners praying at the Dome of the Rock.

Only one of the 18 bereaved families was identified.

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State Security Court starts 'Mohammad's Army' trial

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The State Security Court Monday began trying 20 members of a group calling itself "Mohammad's Army," which is accused of plotting to kill government officials, parliament members and diplomats and harming the security of the state.

At the start of the 20-minute session, Judge Yusef Faour, an army colonel who is in charge of the trials, read out the names of the defendants including two who are being tried in absentia.

The 18 accused present in court were: Foad Daaneh, from Hebron, Jawad Al Faddieh from Jerusalem, Habis Al Qaisi from Wadi Seer, Mustafa Saleem from Nabulus, Khaled Hammad from Jerusalem, Mohammad Khalifeh from Jerusalem, Walid Abu Sand from Lidda, Amer Abu Amer from Lidda, Sami Abu Zeidan from Ramleth, Nabil Abu Harithah from Jerusalem, Mohammad Dajani from Jericho, Ibrahim Abu Salma from Jaffa, Yusef Abu Ali from Beit Jala, Saleem Al Safadi from Hebron, Hashim Darwish from Jaffa, Khaled Abdul Rahman Abu Oshar from Gaza, Ziyad Khashour from Hebron, and Mohammad Wehedi from Beer Sheva. Ismail Bishawi and Jamal Abu Jamee are still at large. And are tried in absentia.

The judge read out a special ruling concerning the two based on articles 245 and 243 of the court law. He said according to these articles all properties and assets belonging to Mr. Bishawi and Mr. Abu Jamee will be placed under government custody.

The judge adjourned the session until Thursday when formal charges will be filed and defence

lawyers can appear in court. The government had said that those on trial were among 151 people arrested last July after terrorist attempts around the country. All but those on trial were released because of insufficient evidence.

The men on trial face charges of working to change the country's Constitution through illegal methods, illegal possession of explosives and fire arms, attempts to kill and conduct terrorist activities using explosive charges, and affiliation to a clandestine group.

Members of the group have admitted during interrogation that they set the fire that destroyed the French Cultural Centre in Amman in March this year and that they burned down two supermarkets in the city apparently because the stores sold alcohol.

Security sources said the group was buying, selling and smuggling weapons and training elements to launch criminal acts aimed at undermining Jordan's security and stability.

They said that the group had links with the Mujahideen of Afghanistan and later that some leaders of the group were trained there.

Court officials said that the charge sheet includes among other things: details about the group members' getting training in the use of automatic weapons in remote areas like Irak Al Amir in the Wadi Seer region and near al Qasr town near Karak. Group members are also said to have trained themselves in the manufacture of explosive charges and in travelling by night in disguise and other training for their terrorist activities.

The group members, according

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Anderson's message stirs high hostage optimism

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A message by American Terry Anderson that his Lebanese kidnappers have promised "good news, very soon," suggests the seven-year-old Lebanon hostages saga is moving towards a happy ending, diplomats said Monday.

"This is obviously a sign that things are still going in the right way and towards a happy ending," said one diplomat. "The simple fact that the kidnappers allowed this interview is a good indication."

In an interview taped in Lebanon and broadcast on Sunday by the U.S. Cable News Network (CNN) Mr. Anderson said: "I've been told a little while ago that we can expect some very good news very soon."

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is brokering a

deal swap hundreds of Arab prisoners held by Israel for up to nine Western hostages and six Israeli servicemen missing or held captive in Lebanon.

The diplomats said the next real sign of whether the series of exchanges was moving towards an end would be if Israel or the kidnappers made more releases.

In the 12-minute tape, Mr. Anderson, 43, said he and two other hostages he is held with — American Thomas Sutherland and Briton Terry Waite — were "highly encouraged by news events."

The tape was viewed by the Associated Press. CNN officials here said it was provided by Al Madinet, a Lebanese television production company, and brought to Damascus by courier (see page 2).

The tape was accompanied by a statement in Arabic signed by Islamic

Jihad saying the tape was a continuation of the process which started with the release of Briton John McCarthy in August.

The statement said the tape was made "because we believe the captives should express their opinions concerning their issue, in order to take all serious and practical steps to find a just and comprehensive solution."

It appeared Islamic Jihad, which holds Mr. Anderson and the two other hostages, allowed the tape to be made in part to increase the pressure on Israel to release more of the prisoners it holds in South Lebanon, mainly Lebanese.

"We have told just a little, while ago that we can expect very good news soon," Mr. Anderson said on the tape.

He said they were not told what the good news was or who would be released and when, but that "every-one on all sides simply must cooperate."

"This is no longer the time for bargaining," he said. "This is no longer the time to get some small advantage out of each step."

The American hostages said all hostages must be freed, not just Westerners but the hundreds of Lebanese whose freedom is "absolutely necessary for this to be resolved."

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Perez de Cuellar for his "skill in these very, very difficult negotiations" to win release of Western hostages and Arab detainees held by Israel.

He said he could not recommend any further steps to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, adding, "he's doing quite well by himself."

Mr. Anderson wore a brown sweatshirt and sported a mustache. Mr. Anderson sat in front of a white wall. There were no clues as to where the tape was made.

He looked healthy and laughed three times.

Mr. Anderson said he heard his daughter Salome on British radio. "I

was delighted," Mr. Anderson said, adding that he also heard his two brothers and his sister Peggy Sey.

Mr. Sutherland also heard his daughter Kit and wife Jean on a radio programme. "He was amazed and impressed and didn't stop talking about it for a considerable amount of time," Mr. Anderson said. "I know he misses you both very much and how much he loves you all."

He thanked his friends and family for "keeping the issue alive and not letting it come to a halt."

Mr. Anderson said he had no information about other Western hostages apart from Mr. Waite and Mr. Sutherland.

He said he was treated as well as could be expected. Speaking to "friends and colleagues," he said: "We are grateful you haven't forgotten us. Keep up the good work."

Mr. Anderson said he has heard Mr. McCarthy several times on the

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MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service will be held for Dr. Humphrey Gethin Rees (late veterinary adviser at the JCO) at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 1st Circle, at 5 p.m. on Tuesday 8 October. All his friends are welcome to attend. For more information please call 823100, ext. 250

King condoles Burini family over child's death

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Raed Ben Zeid to offer his condolences to the Burini family and Dina Abdul Fattah, mother of a six-year-old boy, Mohammad Burini, who died after being hit by a stray bullet during a wedding in Zarqa.

The funeral of the child was turned into a demonstration in which posters were raised calling for strict rules and penalties to be imposed on those firing during weddings. The boy was accidentally shot in the head during the wedding that took place near his house a week ago.

The mother, a widow, offered the corneas of her child to save the sight of other people.

Prince Raed visited the bereaved family and offered the King's condolences, thanking the family for the donation of the corneas of the deceased child. He said that the corneas were offered

to two youths, aged eight and 12, with damaged corneas and weak eyesight.

Prince Raed was accompanied on the visit by Zarqa governor Mohammad Shobaki and other officials.

The mother wept bitterly and said that she had lost her husband, who died of cancer last year, and now her child.

The Ministry of Interior had earlier this year issued strict regulations imposing heavy penalties on those firing arms during weddings or any other ceremonies.

The Public Security Department (PSD) last May issued a statistical bulletin that showed that 27 persons died and 211 others were injured, some of them seriously, as a result of firing during festivities. The PSD said that in 1990 there were 312 firing incidents during festivities, mainly weddings, registering an increase by 88 over those incidents of 1989.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday receives in his office Dr. Baker Abdullah Al Sayed, minister of Sudan's medical corps.

Medical, technical cooperation between Jordan and Sudan reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his office Monday Dr. Baker Abdullah Al Sayed, minister of Sudan's medical corps.

Dr. Sayed delivered to the Crown Prince a message from Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir voicing Sudan's appreciation to Jordan for its continued assistance. The letter also included an invitation to the Crown Prince to visit Sudan.

At the meeting, held at the Royal Court, the two sides ex-

changed views on technical assistance and cooperation in medical affairs.

The Sudanese government recently decided to name a medical centre for the treatment of chest diseases in Sudan after Prince Hassan in appreciation of his efforts to provide support and assistance to Sudan.

At the same time, it was announced here that a Sudanese economic delegation led by the minister of trade and supply will arrive in Amman Tuesday on a

visit to Jordan.

The delegation will meet with Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb and other government officials to discuss means of promoting bilateral trade exchanges and economic cooperation.

The Sudanese minister will head his country's side to the Jordanian-Sudanese joint committee meeting to open at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Wednesday.

State of Jordan's education system to be reviewed at UNESCO conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in the 26th meeting of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) due to open in Paris on Oct. 15.

The head of the Jordanian delegation, Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat, said he would submit several working papers to the meeting tackling the state of education in Jordan. The papers will pay particular attention to current moves to implement reform to the educational system and Jordan's strenuous efforts to eradicate illiteracy and offer education to adults who missed the educational opportunities when they were young.

During the meeting, UNESCO's achievements, future plans and budget for the coming

two years will be discussed, according to the minister. He said that the state of education in the occupied Arab territories will be reviewed and the participants will choose a new executive council for the organisation.

The Ministry of Education is currently involved in implementing the 1987 National Educational Conference resolutions which provided for overhauling the educational system in Jordan by introducing reforms to the curricula, improving the standard and efficiency of teachers and acquiring proper educational facilities and buildings.

The delegation accompanying Dr. Dahiyat to the UNESCO conference includes five senior Education Ministry officials plus Jordan's ambassador to France, Awwad Al Khalidi.

Ancient city uncovered in Irbid governorate

IRBID (Petra) — An ancient city dating back to 3,000 B.C. was uncovered recently in Khirbet Tal Al Zairaqun near Al Mughar town in Irbid governorate, according to an informed source at the Department of Antiquities.

The source said Monday that the excavation works which are conducted by teams from Tubingen University, in Germany, and Yarmouk University's Institute of Anthropology, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, had uncovered the city's walls and huge fortresses, roads,

houses, temples and deep wells.

The source said the city lies on top of a mountain which is surrounded by deep valleys.

The site, he added, is one of the most important civilisation centres which coincided with similar civilisations in Palestine, Iraq and Syria 5,000 years ago.

Director General of the Department of Antiquities Safwan Al Tal and Yarmouk University President Ali Mahabza Monday visited the site and inspected the ongoing excavation works.

Protestors promise to press demands for freedom of political prisoners

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — About 150 people picketed in front of the Prime Ministry Sunday in protest of the detention of eight political activists who have been imprisoned for the last six months without being formally charged.

Families and friends of the detainees vowed to stand in front of the Prime Ministry and even picket in front of the Swaga Prison until "some justice is done."

The prisoners have been detained without trial since April when the eight clashed with an Israeli patrol at the Jordanian-Israeli demarcation line.

Although government officials acknowledged that the prisoners are being detained, they declined to comment on their plight or whether the government intended to charge the group, who are affiliated with various Palestinian political parties and Muslim fundamentalists.

The prisoners held a one-week hunger strike to pressure the government to look into their cases.

At a time when Jordan is undergoing political pluralism and its democratisation process has begun, family members of the prisoners are adamant that there should be a trial.

"They did not find any guns on them (the prisoners)," said one of the prisoners' relatives who declined to give her name. "They searched our houses and did not find anything. All we are asking for is a fair trial."

"The government is not listening to us," said the wife of one of the detainees. "All they are doing is confiscating things like cars which do not even belong to the prisoners."

Jordan, which has been criticised in the past by the international human rights watchdog Amnesty International (AI), recently won praise from AI for an effort to improve its treatment of prisoners.

According to Asma Khader, a prominent lawyer who represents leftist groups, "the prisoners have a right to be tried. They either should be sent to court or should be released."

Ms. Khader, who is following the plight of the prisoners closely, told the Jordan Times that she sent a letter to Prime Minister Tahir Masi and human rights organisations.

"We are asking that the prisoners be sent for trial or be released," said Ms. Khader, adding that the letters to human rights organisations requested that they petition the government on behalf of the detainees.

"So far, we have had no response (from the government) but we are expecting some sort of a response because this is a matter of humanity," she said.

The government, under regulations enacted during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, can indefinitely hold political prisoners without trial.

Symposium begins on effects of television and radio on children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday inaugurated a two-day symposium on children's programmes on radio and television organised by the National Association for the Education of the Child.

She also honoured a veteran broadcaster who has been presenting children's programmes on Radio Jordan since 1959.

The participants, representing various organisations concerned with children's status and voluntary organisations, will review a host of working papers dealing with children's programmes and educational and recreational activities.

Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif addressed the opening session by underlining the role of radio and television as among the most influential forms of media affecting the minds and behaviour of people in general and children in particular.

The minister referred in particular to those programmes which are full of violence and crimes, noting that they have an adverse effect on children. He called on the participants to focus attention on means of removing all forms of negative elements that will harm children.

Mr. Sharif said that Radio Jordan and Television will continue their support of and close cooperation with the National Association for the Education of the Child in a manner that would contribute most beneficially towards the sound upbringing of children.

The Queen presented Hadieh Mirza with a gift in recognition of her efforts since 1959 to promote the status and behaviour of children in Jordan through her programmes.

The symposium aims at creating public awareness on the need to give more attention to education and recreation of children and to direct children's attention to constructive attitudes and patterns of behaviour useful for their future and for society.

The programme was organised in keeping with the Day of the Arab Child and the International Day of the Child.

In 1984, the Jordanian government ratified the Charter of the Rights of the Arab Child and approved the commemoration of the International Day of the Child on the first Monday of each October, which has also been recognised as the Day of the Arab Child.

Since 1986, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has joined forces with numerous gov-

ernment and private organisations to coordinate the annual nation-wide activities to mark this day. These have focused on the importance of proper child care, available children's services and the search for solutions to problems associated with childhood.

As part of the week long activities to mark Arab Child Day, the Health Department in the Amman region said it started a number of health activities at schools, kindergartens and nurseries as well as social centres.

Department Director Zeid Kayed said the programme entails visits by health teams to schools in order to examine children and to give lectures on proper means of safeguarding children's health.

In Irbid, the Health Department there reported similar activities.

Anderson message sparks optimism

(Continued from page 1)

radio since the Englishman was released and was grateful for the broadcast, "because you know these things do help" to "keep this issue alive."

Addressing Mr. McCarthy and his friends, he said "we know you are still concerned with us and will do all you can to bring the situation to an end."

Mr. McCarthy has only recently begun giving such radio interviews, indicating that the Anderson case was probably made in the last week.

Mr. Anderson said he plays chess daily with Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Waite.

Mr. Anderson also said he has been reading Newsweek and Time every week. The American hostage, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

Mr. Sutherland, 60, the acting dean of agriculture at American University of Beirut, was seized June 9, 1985 and claimed held by Islamic Jihad.

Anglican church envoy Waite, 52, disappeared Jan. 20, 1987, after leaving his west Beirut hotel to negotiate with Islamic Jihad for release of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Sutherland.

No groups have claimed to hold him, but all three men are believed to be held by Islamic Jihad.

The Westerners missing in Lebanon are five Americans, one Briton, two Germans and an Italian. Until the release of the tape, Iran and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) — believed to be an umbrella for kidnap groups — had insisted the next step was up to Israel.

Britain to help Jordan augment water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian and British governments Monday signed two memoranda, one of which provides funds to finance consultancy services for a study to develop the Disi Water Basin in the southeast part of the country.

The study aims at providing the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) with vital information about the amounts of water available in that basin and prospects for underground water use for agricultural purposes.

The three-year study will cost £1.15 million, which will be provided as a grant from the British government.

The second memorandum provides for another study by a British team of experts for increasing cooperation between activities conducted by the WAJ and the British Water Authority.

The memorandum aims at providing British assistance to the WAJ in the process of managing and operating Jordan's water resources and sanitation programmes. The cost of the study, which will also come as a grant, is expected to reach £84,500.

The two memoranda were signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Evers.

The two memoranda are seen by observers as another serious attempt on the part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to find means of augmenting Jordan's water resources for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes.

According to an ongoing water symposium in Amman, Jordan last year consumed 175 million cubic metres of water, which is expected to rise to 293 million by the year 2005.

HCST official calls for creation of incentives for Arab scientists

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day meeting opened in Amman Monday to discuss means of developing administrative leaderships at the scientific research establishments in the Arab World.

Six Arab countries, including Jordan, are represented at the meetings which were organised by the Baghdad-based Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils in cooperation with the Amman-based Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

HCST Secretary General Abdullah Touqan opened the meeting with an address in which he underlined the need for promoting management of scientific research programmes.

The Arab World lacks proper leadership to organise such im-

portant work and proper scientific research programmes which are considered to be a cornerstone in the modern technological and scientific culture, Dr. Touqan said.

Arab researchers are not addressing themselves to tasks related to scientific research to promote economic and social programmes but are rather keen on fulfilling their personal interests by conducting research only in order to acquire academic promotion, Dr. Touqan said.

He added that the Arab World has plenty of scientists but they lack the incentives to work, proper management of programmes and facilities.

Dr. Khaled Shreideh, from

HCST, presented a working paper dealing with the strategies of scientific research outlining the methods of work followed by the HCST.

Dr. Taha Neimi, secretary general of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, submitted a working paper dealing with the scientific research activities with regard to planning, management and execution.

Matters related to scientific research in general economics of research, analysis of problems and proper decision-making are among the topics on the agenda.

Researchers from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Egypt and Jordan are taking part in the meeting.

U.N. chief calls on governments to provide shelter for homeless

AMMAN — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has issued a call to various governments to step up their efforts to ensure adequate standard of shelter for all of humanity.

The call was contained in a message to the world marking World Habitat Day (Oct. 7, 1991).

Following is the text of the message as released by the information service of the Amman-based office of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA):

On World Habitat Day, we focus special attention on the importance of shelter, as the conditions under which people live determine to a large extent their health, productivity and sense of well-being. We remember the plight of the vast numbers of people throughout the globe, but especially in the developing countries, who do not have adequate shelter. And we pay tribute to all those who are striving to meet this challenge.

This year, World Habitat Day is being observed against the background of momentous



Javier Perez de Cuellar

changes in the world. The process of democratisation underlying these changes has reemphasised the inalienable rights and legitimate aspirations of all human beings. The fact that millions of people are having to raise their families and spend their daily lives in urban slums, on city pavements or in make-shift rural dwellings that lack the most basic amenities is not consistent with human rights and human dignity. Moreover, ensuring adequate living conditions for all is not only a moral duty but also a political necessity.

Meeting the needs of the more than one billion people who today do not have adequate shelter is a task of daunting proportions. It is complicated by the scale of

need, by demographic pressures and by massive rural-to-urban migration. These difficulties must not, however, discourage us from actively pursuing our objective of adequate shelter for all. What is required is the adoption and implementation in every country of bold and imaginative human settlements policies and programmes designs, above all, to encourage and empower people to strive for the improvement of their living conditions.

The United Nations, through its Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) and other agencies, is committed to assist governments, particularly those of developing countries, to expand their efforts for human settlements development. It is gratifying that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted by the United Nations, has already been established as a framework for addressing the shelter crisis in many countries. The United Nations conference on Environment and Development, to be held next June in Brazil, will focus attention on improving the living and working environment.

Today, I call on the international community as a whole, including governments, international organisations and community groups all over the world to step up their efforts to ensure an adequate standard of shelter for all of humanity.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB to finance 12 projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank's board has approved JD2,834,000 in loans to finance 12 industrial and health service projects. The first 11 loans, worth JD2,734,000, will be used to finance existing industries and projects, including chemical and glass industries, veterinary medicines, plywood, millamin, paper bags, fodder, carton cutting, ceramic souvenirs and sewing. The other loan, worth JD100,000, will be used to finance the establishment of a new health clinic in Amman. The IDB has granted 64 loans, worth JD10,502,000 since the beginning of this year.

Jordan, U.K. discuss ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb received Monday the British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Evers. The meeting discussed economic and commercial relations between Jordan and the United Kingdom and ways of enhancing and bolstering them.

Conference on fertilisers goes on

AMMAN (Petra) — An international five-day conference on fertilisers continued its meetings Monday in Amman. Participants at the conference discussed several papers dealing with ways of exploiting Jordan's phosphates and potash in the production of fertilisers. The papers were presented by specialists from Jordan, India and other countries. The conference was opened Sunday by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists: Mohammad Hameed Judd (copper engraving) and Sahib Al Yasiri (ceramics) at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Goethe Forest" at the Department of Science and Technology of the University of Jordan. The exhibition consists of 45 pictures of the forest which is located in Dama between Tafleh and Shobaki.
- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shamsoun, Khalid Jirees and Mohammad Hameed Abdullah at Abdal Hameed Shamsoun Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.).
- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Rami and Maha Abdul Karim at the British Council.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.

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Jordan Times

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Between the overeager and the responsible

THERE IS nothing worse for Jordan on the eve of the peace conference than to be or appear to be woefully divided. The escalation of the opposition in the Lower House of Parliament to the incumbent government of Prime Minister Taher Masri therefore sends the wrong signal that the Jordanian house is anything but in order and too paralysed to wage peace. This opposition took expression when allegedly 50 members of the House (story on page 1) called on the prime minister Monday to resign for what they called his government's inability to deal effectively with the domestic and external issues facing the country. On closer look, the composition of the opposition camp is made up of various and conflicting parliamentary blocs that under normal conditions would have very little in common. This unlikely alliance that was forged between half of the House's members therefore would not withstand the test of time the minute the storm that brewed in the wake of the recent cabinet reshuffle withers away. It is clear that some political parties and individuals in Parliament were driven by considerations that have nothing to do with the projected peace negotiations on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian problem. Others may have exploited the grievances of other forces in Parliament in order to artificially cement together a conglomerate of parliamentary factions to put pressure on and attempt to demolish the government.

There are two flaws in these parliamentary tactics; one is legal and the other substantive. The formal dimension of the problem lies in the fact that the members of Parliament who are rising against the Masri government are making their efforts at a time when Parliament is in recess. What is the sense in having Parliament in recess if it continues to conduct business as usual? Their call on the prime minister to resign is therefore ultra vires, pure and simple. The more difficult problem is of course, a substantive one and is connected with the Jordanian national congress that is scheduled to be convened for the purpose of airing out the views of the country on the issues of war and peace in the region as well as with the host of domestic problems that still face the Kingdom. As this conference is scheduled to be held on Oct. 10, a mere three days away, and His Majesty King Hussein is planning to address it on all current issues facing the country, the timing of the ongoing extra parliamentary exercises appears to be inappropriate in more ways than one, to say the least. One would have thought that the overeager deputies might want to avoid preempting the important national gathering by abstaining from rocking the peace boat, which is the only realistic means of transportation available for the Arab people to get somewhere. In deference to the real interests of our people and nation the zealous parliamentarians should cool off for a while and take time to reflect more deeply on the problems facing the country and on the best way to deal with them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic Monday daily focused attention on an Iranian government move to oppose the Middle East peace process as sponsored by the United States. Iran has now issued invitations to a large number of personalities to take part in a conference to oppose the proposed peace plan saying that the aim of the conference is to defend Palestine and the Islamic revolution in Palestine as well as the intifada, said the paper. Defending Palestine is the objective of millions of Arabs and Muslims and no one can deny that a big conference like this can give a boost to the intifada and backing to the Arab parties' efforts to liberate usurped lands in Palestine, the paper said. But, it said, since Islam calls on all Muslims to support their Muslim brothers against a common enemy, then why does not Muslim Iran support the Islamic people of Iraq in the face of aggression and alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi people? Only a few days ago the Iranian government announced that it had foiled an Iraqi attempt to break the embargo imposed on the Iraqi Muslim people, the paper said. It said that the report was shocking to all Arabs and Muslims who had been hoping that Iran would support Iraq in the face of aggression and injustice. The Tehran meeting can by no means be a show of concern over the Palestinian people and their intifada, but rather a means to bolster Tehran's attempts to perpetuate aggression on the Iraqi Muslim people, starving its children and its old people, the paper said. The Palestinian people had hoped to get salvation at the hands of Iraq which was conspired against by all forces of evil and hatred, the paper said. It said that if Tehran is indeed concerned over providing help to the Palestinians, it should break the embargo on Iraq and turn the tables on the enemies of all Arabs and Muslims.

AL DUSTOUR daily turned its attention on Israel's current drive to abort the projected peace process and said that announcements by Israeli leaders to build more settlements and not to relinquish any part of the occupied Arab territories can only constitute a defiance of the international community. The paper said that the Israeli announcements and the open defiance to the world community come at a time when the world in general and the Europeans and Americans in particular are involved in preparations for the coming peace talks. Such announcements on the part of the Israelis might also aim at drawing angry reactions on the part of the Arab side that could undermine the present chance for establishing peace in the region, the paper argued. It said that the Americans, who are sponsoring the peace process, and President Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker in particular should step in and put an end to Israel's open defiance and should announce firmly that the international legitimacy should be implemented in full. We hope, said the paper, that the American administration would be quick in replying firmly against such defiance and such disregard of the will of the international community.

The View from Fourth Circle

Justice, malls, beerhalls and James Baker's horse

OF all the aspects of the proposed Arab-Israeli peace conference, I am most impressed by the speed and persistence with which the United States government has moved since March to push the process forward. I am impressed not because of any moral goodness or political magnanimity on the part of the Baker-Bush team — the purveyors of junk morality do not lightly wander into the kingdom of right, and the Marlboro Men of diplomacy seldom stray far from the whisky stores. Rather, I am impressed because I believe there is something very important about the motivation of the Americans.

One has to ask: Who should Baker-Bush push so relentlessly to spur Arab-Israeli negotiations? Why should they challenge the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington? On both counts, I am delighted to see their performance, and I hope they succeed. But why are they so determined?

The answer is not in the United States, but in the Middle East, and the answer gives me much hope and confidence in the future of the Arab World. I would suggest that the American persistence we witness these days is simply the logical response to the political priorities emanating from the Arab people. I remember during the Gulf conflict, in most of the hundreds of interviews I did with international media, being asked to respond to the probability that the Palestinians would be the great losers of the post-war Gulf era, that their case would be forgotten by the world, or at least put aside for a long time. I responded with exactly the opposite perspective, suggesting that after the Gulf war the world would push harder than ever to resolve the Palestine issue. If I must say so, I was right — because of the strong emotional links between the broad ramifications of the Palestine issue and the political forces that drove the majority of Arab people (not governments, but people) to oppose the Anglo-American-Israeli military adventure.

The emotional-political response of most Arabs during the Gulf crisis was a passionate cry for freedom and dignity, directed primarily against the Anglo-American-Israeli alliance that most ordinary Arabs perceived to be the primordial source of their national subjugation and mediocrity. Other forces were also to blame, including our Arab domestic autocracies and the wasteful, excessively Western orientation of those oligarchies that controlled the oil wealth of the Arab World. The Anglo-American-Israeli combine, though, was the first enemy — and, like the first love, always remains the most intense, and the source of much subsequent despair.

The intrusion of Israel into our midst, the dispersal and dismemberment of the Palestinians, and the fragmentation of the Arab World into 22 Lego countries (you put them together, you take them apart, you make new shapes and sizes, you buy and sell them, and you give them away as gifts), the post-1950 tradition of autocracy as the dominant mode of the Arab political order, and the mass frustration and humiliation that has characterised the Arab World since the early 1980s are all part of a complex dynamic whose single greatest consequence can be summarised as a loss of Arab dignity.

Throughout the 1980s, the Arabs started fighting back for their dignity — challenging their own regimes, contesting domestic inequities, standing up to Israel in the form of defiance by fearless individuals in southern Lebanon and the Palestinian intifada, or even defying the mighty United States during the Gulf crisis. The defiance was often emotional, illogical, even suicidal. But it has worked, for its main purpose was simply to send a message to the ruling Arab order and the Anglo-American-Zionist combine: the existing Arab order has not responded to the wishes of the ordinary Arab man and woman. We need and deserve something better, something more humane, responsive and meaningful.

The Gulf crisis, for all its madness on both sides, showed clearly that most of the Arab people were so angry and discontented with the existing Arab order that they would go to great extremes to express their desire for change — even to the point of risking the war that took place, even to seeing Kuwait burn, even to watching frightened and insecure semi-Arabs amongst us run for protection under Anglo-American-Zionist skirts.

The despair that has been generated by the post-1920 and post-1948 political order had reached a point where the majority of Arabs were willing to throw the political order into the air and see what might land in its wake. There were risks. The new order might be worse than the old one. Existing autocracies may perpetuate themselves. Foreign interference may worsen. But the key grassroots political lesson remains clear: The Arabs were demanding change, thirsty for dignity and national self-respect. If they did not get it, they would go to great extremes.

I believe Baker-Bush got the message. Of all the issues that have driven the Arabs to suicidal defiance, the Palestine conflict is the oldest and the most important, for it is a root cause of many other inter-related problems, such as Arab dictatorships, exaggerated military spending, corruption, economic regression, and many others. Therefore, it was clear that if the region was to enjoy stability and peace, the Palestine problem had to be addressed seriously. Why the Western press, whether in haste or ignorance or both, sought to push the Palestine issue aside as a casualty of the Gulf war is something the Western press will have to come to grips with. Our concern is a more obvious reality: The actions and expressions of the Arab people finally pushed the American government and most Arab governments into a serious attempt to resolve the Palestine issue on the basis of accepted international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions.

In other words, political sentiments emanating from the grassroots of the Arab World are starting to drive political changes in the region. If the peace conference takes place, it will not be because the Arabs are meekly responding to a victorious Baker-Bush team. I would suggest a different interpretation: That Baker-Bush got the Arab message, were shocked by the extent of grassroots Arab defiance, embarrassed by their neo-colonial, money-minded Arab coalition partners, and scared by the burning of Kuwait. They appreciated — but would not admit — that if the root causes of Arab despair are left unattended, the Arabs would continue to respond with defiance and violence, sweeping aside even their own moneyed oligarchies.

The Arab World is a very different place today than it was a decade ago. I believe the future holds great promise for the Arab people, if our present course is not radically derailed by domestic or foreign events. We have much work to do in terms of inter-Arab reconciliation. Those in the region who are still politically and emotionally agitated due to the events of the last year will need some more time to regain their national composure. They need time to learn to do things more meaningful than counting their money. Instead, they must recognise that their future lies in a free and self-respecting Arab Nation, rather than in awkward, expensive and unnatural arrangements with foreign powers, tantamount to surrogate nationhood. Those who seek to buy security in the political malls of Washington and the emotional beerhalls of London will wake up one day to find themselves penniless and in the gutter — used and discarded by foreign powers, and shunned by their own people.

In time, more and more people throughout the Arab World will grasp the power of the idea of freedom, democracy, pluralism, human rights, and pan-Arab integration and cooperation. As this happens, fears will recede, distortions will be redressed, and reconciliation will occur at a faster pace.

Time will not only heal wounds, but it should also cause those in the West and in the region who slipped into a smoke and mirrors world to heed the lessons of history and human nature, and to return to the real world of people seeking a life of health, stability and dignity. One of the lessons that should have been learned from the recent crisis was the interplay between material wealth, national composure, and personal dignity. The so-called "poor" Arab states grasped firmly to their young democracies and suffered economic setbacks with a resignation rooted in a powerful sense of self-confidence. They made it clear that the material poverty of a dignified nation is no poverty at all — there is no nation on earth as wealthy as that which retains its sense of honour.

I was in Yemen last month and was struck by the powerful sense of identity and confidence exhibited by the Yemenis — despite their poverty and severe problems. I was most struck by a hand painted sign hanging on a wall above a small army post in a remote eastern desert region. The sign read: "Najoo" Wa La Narko," meaning "We will go hungry, but never kneel." Economically shattered by the Gulf crisis, the Yemenis nevertheless press ahead with their programme of unity and democracy. They did not collapse under the threats of powerful neighbours or the withdrawal of American financial aid. Rather, they recommitted themselves to unity and democracy. They pointed the way to the future.

I was also pleased to see the United States resume its aid to Jordan, because we have not made any changes in our policy to trigger the resumption of aid. We have held steady to our principled and reasonable position. We calmly told the Americans we would not be bought by their money. We valued their friendship, appreciated their aid, and welcomed their diplomatic activism. But we were not for sale. When the bells of the cash register coalition rang last year, some Arabs followed like docile sheep, desperate for food, hearing nothing but the sound of the ringing bells. The Americans naturally thought all Arabs danced to the same tune. But reality is otherwise. They cut off our aid, and we did not disappear, we did not beg, we did not grovel, we did not make frantic appeals to be allowed back into the shopping mall and the beerhall. Neither did the Yemenis. Neither did the majority of people in the Arab World. There is a lesson here that is worth learning well — for those whose job it is to deal with the Arabs, and who care to see the reality of this region, rather than its made-in-the-West illusions.

Therefore, at this historic moment of change when the Arab people grope for a new political order, haste may be our fatal enemy. We should make it clear that we respond neither to the electoral timetables of the West nor to the two-minute attention span of the global electronic media — for history is our mentor, composure our companion, and viable nationhood our goal. The Middle East region remains full of frenzied people seeking to settle old scores, peddle worn out fears from the past, or sell false new political merchandise. Our immediate challenge is not to be distracted by this agitated cacophony of fading political norms and unsettled personalities. The life and security of the Arab people will be garnered neither through retrogressive escapes into neo-protectorates nor in a blind, headlong plunge into yet another round of runaway militarism.

Our future lies in an Arab order based on justice first and foremost, justice for peoples and for individuals. The fact that James Baker is coming around yet again this month is good news. We welcome him. We wish him well. We will work with him to achieve justice for all people in this region. And we are delighted that he has finally left his horse at home — for he obviously got our message that he is welcome, but his horse is not.

Gorbachev-Bush 'disarmament race' removes threat over Europe

By Thomas Ginsberg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush have begun a "disarmament race" that would remove nearly all nuclear missiles threatening Europe and pack away many weapons based in rebellious republics.

After decades of buildup, a turning point seems to have arrived in the 46-year-old nuclear arms race. Pledges by the superpowers would amount to the largest reduction of atomic arms since the cold war's beginning.

And ironically, the trigger was the collapse of the August coup by the very hard-liners who wanted to keep the weapons.

The post-coup chaos in the Kremlin and the republics' rush to independence frightened leaders on both continents that some weapons in the Soviet arsenal could be seized by nationalists demanding greater self-rule.

Seizing the opportunity, Mr. Bush acted quickly to force a Soviet cutback. He announced unilateral cuts in U.S. short-range weapons in Europe and urged new talks to eliminate

more intercontinental nuclear weapons.

Mr. Gorbachev, after taking a week to formulate a response, made a stunning announcement Saturday in which he pledged unilateral cuts in all short-range nuclear weapons — on land, sea and in the air.

"We are decisively moving the process of disarmament forward," he said, "toward a nuclear-free world, a safer and more stable peace."

Far from being boxed in by the U.S. move, Mr. Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin were relieved by the opportunity to remove the Soviet weapons that suddenly presented a threat to their own safety.

"Bush's unexpected move, among other things, gives Moscow an opportunity to retain control of the nuclear weapons before it is too late," Russian television commented this week.

Among the steps announced by Mr. Gorbachev will be the liquidation of all battlefield nuclear artillery and nuclear warheads on tactical missiles. That includes weapons with a range of 30 kilometres up to the SS-20

missile, which has a range of 5,170 kilometres.

Mr. Gorbachev said the Kremlin also will put into storage nuclear-tipped rockets from bombers, ships and submarines, and that some of those would be liquidated.

Short-range tactical weapons comprise about 20 per cent of all Soviet nuclear weapons, most of which are based in Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan.

It was these tactical weapons that had posed the greatest threat to Western Europe. Maoys already were to be eliminated under the 1987 intermediate-range nuclear force treaty. The new cuts are expected to finish them off.

The same weapons could have been the most lethal in the hands of republic leaders. Soviet officials insisted that the technical know-how needed to use the weapons and security around them precluded any such danger.

But fears persisted. As late as Friday, a secret KGB-commissioned report was published warning of the possibility of warring ethnic or political groups getting hold of the weapons.

In the Ukraine, an impassioned nationalist movement has spurred the republic to form its own army in the aftermath of the coup and is jockeying for greater independence from the reconstituted, Russian-dominated union.

Ukrainians — who scorn Russian control as much as Soviet — have officially stated their intention to be nuclear-free. But they also have claimed control over the weapons on their territory. Similar ominous statements have come from Kazakhstan, a republic lying along Russia's southern border.

In Russia, which itself possesses about three-quarters of all Soviet nuclear weapons, Mr. Yeltsin joined Mr. Gorbachev in searching for a way to control the weapons.

Fears were soothed late last week when the 12 Soviet republics agreed to "joint control" of the nuclear arsenal through a central command point, presumably the Kremlin.

The agreement appeared designed to prevent either Mr. Yeltsin or Mr. Gorbachev — or any single republic — from exercising sole control over the weapons.

Britain's Labour Party taps socialist heritage for the 1990s

By David Storey
Reuters

BRIGHTON, ENGLAND — Britain's Labour Party is boldly declaring socialism as the ideology of the future as it challenges for power in an impending general election.

Statues of Marx and Lenin have come tumbling down across the old communist world, but Labour is tapping its own less dogmatic socialist heritage to establish the principles of a post-Thatcherite philosophy for the 1990s.

At their annual conference in this south coast resort this week, Labour leaders have made the revival of communal concern and government responsibility a central theme.

"Democratic centralism is dead but that's been the case since Lenin was laid to rest. In the real world, democratic socialism is alive and thriving," party Chairman Tom Sawyer told the conference.

"I am told... that Europe is the future but that socialism is the past. How can this be, I ask myself, when the socialist group is the biggest group in the European parliament?"

lic rejection of the hands-off, market-driven approach of Margaret Thatcher, who was replaced as Conservative Party leader by John Major last November.

Mr. Thatcher's 11-year rule, which ended in recession and an erosion of trust in the state health and education systems, is portrayed by Labour as a period of anti-social selfishness.

Although Mr. Major has tried to create a more caring image in his party, Labour leader Neil Kinnock said conservatism still meant "letting the future look after itself, leaving people to fend for themselves, whether they are able to or not."

Labour promised to foster a new sense of "society," a concept Mrs. Thatcher said she did not believe in.

Tooy Blair, employment spokesman, said modern socialism was "founded on the belief that we are more than buyers and sellers in some impersonal marketplace... not merely individuals stranded in hopeless isolation, but human beings, part of a community with obligations to one another as well as ourselves."

The unfettered race for individual wealth, which Mrs. Thatcher encouraged by tax cuts

NEWS ANALYSIS

Labour is responding to suggestions that both it and the ruling Conservative Party have shifted so far from extremist stances adopted in the 1980s that they are bereft of ideology and competing only over which is the better manager.

Labour has shed many of its far left commitments, including widespread nationalisation, unilateral nuclear disarmament and unrestrained power to the trades unions.

The party's socialism is born from the working class struggle. Many party members, particularly older ones, address each other as "comrade" and the conference closes by singing "the red flag," theme of the Communist International.

But Labour's policy has never borne much resemblance to that of the Kremlin. It is more akin to that of Social Democrats in France, Germany, Austria and other West European states. The party senses growing pub-

and other policies, would be replaced by efforts to even out inequalities in society.

Labour would raise taxes for the wealthy.

"In a civilised society the best-off minority must pay their fair share to meet the needs of the majority. That's not the politics of envy. It is the ethics of community, the ethics of society," Mr. Kinnock said.

Deputy party leader Roy Hattersley echoed this: "The rich and the powerful will not lightly abandon either their riches or their power. But it is a hope of a more equal society that drives us on to victory... That vision has not faded."

A Labour government would intervene more in the running of the country, stopping what it considers creeping privatisation of the state health service and combining with private companies to invest in run-down infrastructure.

هذا من الجاني

50 deputies call on Masri to resign

(Continued from page 1)

when in fact we are not," said one of the dissenting members of the bloc. "Furthermore by co-signing the statement with groups opposed to the peace process we are giving the impression that we are against peace and are reluctant to attend the national congress called by His Majesty the King for Thursday, when in fact we are not," the deputy continued. "We are voting against confidence in the Masri government because the prime minister did not treat us fairly and did not take us seriously when he reshuffled his cabinet on Thursday. To take it beyond that therefore is wrong."

Mr. Hindawi and Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, another prominent leader of the bloc, both said it was wrong to assume they opposed either conference by joining forces with the Muslim Brotherhood and ultra nationalists and leftists in signing the statement. "We stick by what we said in our (Sunday) communique on the peace issue," said Mr. Rawabdeh. "And what is in Monday's joint petition does not contradict our original communique," he stressed.

The "misunderstanding" between the two opposing views in the bloc over the involvement or non-involvement in Monday's petition, as one deputy put it, was because the bloc had held a meeting the night before and signed the bloc's communique and handed the responsibility of further measures to their leader, Mr. Hindawi.

"We gave our leader the jurisdiction to use our signatures as he sees fit, but within the guidelines set in our communique and discussed in our meetings," a member of the bloc told the Jordan Times.

Until mid-day Monday, a number of Constitution Bloc members were not sure whether Mr.

Hindawi had authorised the incorporation of their names on the petition and kept silent on the subject.

However, later in the day it became apparent that Mr. Hindawi was not present at the morning meeting in Parliament during which the signatures were collected.

Several independent deputies told the Jordan Times that the intention of the organisers of the petition was to send a protest message against Thursday's congress which, they contend, "could sidestep the legislative authority and go over the head of Parliament to address the peace question."

Muhammad Abu Olein, a member of the Constitution Bloc, categorically denied that his bloc had such an intention and that it "was in total support of the King and the Thursday meeting."

According to parliamentary sources, deputies Abdullah Alkhalil (Brotherhood) and Laila Shbeilat (Independent), who along with their Islamist colleagues are opposed to peace

negotiations, were the driving force behind Monday's petition.

It was not clear Monday how the government would handle the growing tension with the 50 deputies, but observers and analysts said that, short of resigning, Mr. Masri held several options, the easiest of which seemed to be a mending of fences between the Constitution Bloc and the government.

Individuals on both sides had proposed this solution as a viable option but there was no clear indication that either the government or the Constitution Bloc would make an official move towards that end although nothing was ruled out.

Another option cited by the analysts was the King's prerogative to dissolve Parliament and call for new national elections. "Alternatively," said one analyst, "it is possible that the leadership of the Constitution Bloc has forced this showdown with the government in order to bring it down and replace it with another in which they can be major partners."

EC okays \$2.4b aid package

(Continued from page 1)

grant a credit facility worth 1.25 billion European Currency Units, about \$1.5 billion, for the import of food and medical supplies.

He said that would be added to a package of grants and credit guarantees worth \$750 million European Currency Units, about \$900 million, which was approved last year for Moscow.

Mr. Kok said the ministers decided to provide the money on condition that similar sums be approved by the United States and Canada, together, and Japan.

Other officials said, however, the United States and Japan each would be expected to come up

with \$2.4 billion. Officials said the United States earmarked some \$2.5 billion in agricultural credits this year and last.

In another development, an influential U.S. lawmaker said Monday Mr. Gorbachev had matched President George Bush's nuclear arms cuts and raised the bet with his own sweeping disarmament plan.

But Sam Nunn, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, added that despite the dramatic cutbacks, "we have to be somewhat apprehensive about the long-term stability of the Soviet Union."

"We cannot behave now as if everything is going to be in the hands of this leadership from now on," Mr. Nunn said on NBC Television.

Other arms experts agreed that the Gorbachev arms moves go beyond even the deep, unilateral cuts that Mr. Bush announced Sept. 27 to spur the Soviets to reciprocate.

"More has been done in the past eight days... (than) in the last 40 years," said Stan Norris, a senior staff analyst with the Natural Resources Defence Council.

"This is the kind of race to have, to see who can reduce the fastest," said Gene Larocque, director of the Centre for Defence Information.

Water in King Talal Dam:

Nature, management determine water quality

By Dr. Usama H. Mudallal

The quality of water running out of the King Talal Dam and used for irrigation in the Jordan Valley has been a subject of controversy. In the following article the writer, a water resources consultant, describes the quality of water in the dam and proposes measures to improve it.



Usama Mudallal

THE impact of urban drainage, treated or untreated waste water and impure water discharged into rivers or other water bodies is one of the major problems in the water industry, environment and crops irrigation in Jordan. King Talal Dam's water is one of those water bodies affected by urban drainage and environmental problems. This question its role as a major source for irrigation in the Jordan Valley.

The purpose of building the dam was to carry out an ambitious plan to irrigate 60,000 dunams (6,000 hectares) in the Jordan Valley. Since 1976 periodical sampling for chemical and biological analysis has been carried out by The Royal Scientific Society (RSS), which has been releasing reliable information in its annual technical report since 1980. Other bodies such as the Jordan Valley Authority, the Water Authority of Jordan as well as the University of Jordan, also carried out similar studies and analysis. None of these studies, however, reached the level of consistency, continuity and sometimes reliability as that of the RSS. With this bulk of information, the main difficulty has been matching the results of the analysis with irrigation programmes, technical papers, research papers and environmental priorities, and converting the findings into working tools.

The amount of the treated sewage discharged from the plant increased by 100 per cent during five years of operation. Designed to treat 70,000 cubic metres per day, the plant has become overloaded with 28 per cent of its working capacity by the end of 1990. This has negatively affected the quality of the discharged water. This situation is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. Studies to update, reshape and expand the plant are to start soon. When expansion is completed the present problem of overloading and partial low-quality water produced would be solved.

The quality of water in the reservoir

As in any water reservoir in the world, there are two main factors affecting water quality: One the chemical, organic and biological loads entering the reservoir through the river; and two, the quantity and intensity of rainfall during the rain season.

In the case of the King Talal reservoir the first factor is related to the amount of chemicals carried into the reservoir through the River Zarga. The chemical loads are due to the amount of

phosphate and other rich-mineral deposits and rocks eroded by the river along its sides.

The organic and biological loads carried into the reservoir by River Zarga are partly due to pollution from farm wastes along the river and partly to untreated waste water flowing into the river. It is believed that waste disposal and excessively-used pesticides flow from the farms directly or indirectly into the River Zarga water. The farm waste disposal is not yet quantitatively known. Qualitatively, the effect is detected and confirmed by analysis. Study of this problem should be made. The objectives of the study should lead to identifying the farms causing the most significant effect on the river water, to know the kind of pesticides used, the quantity used and the method of usage, and to quantify the impact of such usage and recommend guidelines and procedures of operation to reduce the amount of pesticides to be used to the lowest level possible.

The second factor (flow and floods of River Zarga) depends on the amount of rainfall over the catchment area of the dam (3,300 square kilometres). Good rainy seasons with rather high rainfall cause flooding in the river. So if the amount of water accumulated in the reservoir is high, the concentration of the chemical and organic material will be low and the water quality in the reservoir would be acceptable. The contrary is true. It can be noted that the reservoir itself acts as a natural treatment body for several chemical and bio-chemical components. Studies indicated that the concentration of the main

pollutants in the water entering the reservoir decreased in the order of 58 per cent to 68 per cent in the water leaving the reservoir. Therefore, the quality of water in the reservoir does not maintain a certain trend. Generally it can be stated that deterioration of quality is expected in drought conditions.

According to RSS reports prepared successively during the last decade, an overall average concentration of the main pollutants in the water leaving the reservoir for irrigation purposes in the Jordan Valley is within acceptable irrigation limits for most of the crops. Certain measures should be taken when irrigating sensitive crops and trees. Agricultural engineers can designate the proper crops to be irrigated.

Two phases can be carried out to achieve the best possible profit of using the King Talal reservoir water. The first phase is to carry out an immediate evaluation programme. This evaluation should include:

— Water quality and quantity used to supply irrigated areas in the Jordan Valley with the least water requirement.

— Kind of crops irrigated by water from the reservoir and the size of the irrigated lands.

— Kind and quantities of pesticides used.

— Agricultural guidelines followed during the last seasons.

The above information and data should be processed and examined by a team of specialists to come out with fruitful results. The second phase is a long-term working plan which can be initiated as the same time with the first phase and parallel to it. This plan should include:

— The catchment area of the

dam which should be divided into sub-catchment areas. Monitor of sewage effluent, industrial waste and flood water should be undertaken to identify the potential sources of pollution.

— Flow and water quality of puter model is to be built. Through this model the impact of urban drainage and the quality of irrigation water can be checked out. Also, the pollutant passing out to the irrigation water in the Jordan Valley can be tested and a long-term plan for water management can be drafted. This plan can be viewed and modified easily as the environmental model provided with the information gathered periodically all through the year.

Conclusion

King Talal reservoir is at present the largest fresh water body in the country. It is the main supply for irrigation water in Jordan Valley.

Khbirat Al Samra treatment plant is a major source of treated water to the dam. The amount of treated waste water discharged from the plant during 1989 is about 33 million cubic metres (mcm). This quantity is increasing and expected to reach 40 mcm before the year 2000. This makes the plant of vital importance as a major source of supply to the dam. Special care should, therefore, be given to this vital source to utilise it in the best way possible.

Upon completion of the expansion and up-dating Khbirat Samra treatment plant shall have main tributary to supply the reservoir with treated waste water accepted for irrigation. Thus dam will have a better role supplying water for irrigating allowing a more efficient plan water distribution; thus better results in production, yield and prices would be achieved.

Court starts 'Mohammad's Army' trial

(Continued from page 1)

to the ebbage sheet, have embarked on their operations by first conducting a surveillance of targeted areas and people to be assassinated. These included army barracks near the King Hussein Medical City, supermarkets, and the home of the Canadian ambassador at Wadi Ajloun.

Seven parliament members, including six from the Muslim Brotherhood Party, attended the court session, which was open to the public.

Kurdish rebels kill 60 soldiers

(Continued from page 1)

It was the first time the Kurds had controlled any major town in the north since the collapse of a post-Gulf war rebellion against the Iraqi government in March. Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani, who is trying to negotiate an elusive peace and autonomy agreement with the government, blamed the July clashes on a misunderstanding at a checkpoint.

Shortly afterwards the army and Peshmergas resumed joint patrols in Sulaimaniyah but the bulk of the army remained drawn up on the edge of town.

The Kurds and the government have been discussing an autonomy agreement since shortly after the collapse of the rebellion. The two sides say they have reached agreement on many issues but the Kurds have said the size of the autonomous region remains a problem.

Shamir restates hardline stand

(Continued from page 1)

ment of a just and durable peace. The rest of the articles come as guidelines and no more," he said.

Mr. Shamir, under U.S. pressure to enter talks, also expressed firm opposition to any role for Palestinians from East Jerusalem.

Even if the United States satisfies

Israel's terms for entering the talks, Mr. Shamir made clear he intends to yield little in negotiations.

"This will be a long, extended and exhausting negotiation process. Much manoeuvring, much patience and much determination to stand our ground are required," he said.

Palestinians mark massacre

(Continued from page 1)

has challenged the police in court. The others say they have no faith in the Israeli judicial system.

"I have no trust in the Israeli courts or in the Israelis in general," said Jibad Hamid Al Yassini, father of the youngest victim, Izal Al Yassini, aged 15. Standing beside a candle bearing his son's name Mr. Yassini said he expected neither a prosecution nor compensation for his son's death.

"I can't bear to ask for compensation for the blood of my son. Even if I was paid money I would feel like I was eating my son's flesh and drinking his blood if I used that money."

Adnan Huseini, director of the Islamic Council which runs Al Aqsa, said for the families it was enough to know that their relatives had died "defending Islam."

He described the killings as a turning point in the Palestinian uprising since 1987 against Israeli occupation.

"This was a watershed in our struggle," he told Reuters in his office near the museum where the bloodstained and tattered clothes of the victims are displayed in glass cases.

For most Israelis the killings are history. But at least one Israeli lawyer is seeking justice. Avigdor Feldman, attorney for the Israeli Arab relatives of victim Adnan Mawawi, is urging the Jerusalem prosecutor to press charges against the police of unjustified use of arms.

Israeli security forces opened fire Monday on Palestinians in the occupied territories, killing a Palestinian man, Arab and Israeli reports said. It was the third fatality since Sunday in the Palestinian uprising.

The shooting death Monday came in the village of Burkin near the northern West Bank city of Jenin.

Arabs reports said plainclothes Israeli security agents opened fire on a group of Palestinians.

Imad Atik, 22, died on the spot of multiple gunshot wounds, while others of the group fled, apparently unharmed, they added. Local activists reportedly picked up Mr. Atik's body to take it for burial as Israeli army helicopters patrolled overhead.

A curfew was later imposed on Burkin, where 4,000 Palestinians live, after the shooting, the army said. In nearby Jenin, soldiers shot and wounded and then detained an Arab and detained two others, reports said. The Jenin shooting followed a report on Israeli media that a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli patrol, causing no injuries.

Troops destroyed a house in a West Bank village near Ramallah. The army said the owner and his sons had thrown explosives at Israeli cars in 1990. There were no injuries in the

attacks. Islamic University in the occupied Gaza Strip reopened Monday, leaving just one of the six Palestinian universities still closed by Israeli military order after nearly four years of the Palestinian revolt.

Israel's closure of Palestinian colleges and universities and its demolition of Palestinian houses have attracted international criticism as a collective punishment.

Bir Zeit University in the West Bank is the only one of six universities and 17 colleges still closed by military order.

Islamic University had been shut since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987, and Monday's reopening was only partial. Israeli authorities allowed only women final-year undergraduates to attend classes and said the wall around the campus must be raised by four metres to discourage stone-throwers, university spokesman Mohammad Bardweel said.

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 4/10/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 7/10/91
Sterling Pound ^a	1.7370	1.7380
Deutsche Mark	1.6780	1.6760
Swiss Franc	1.4695	1.4685
French Franc	5.7160	5.7190
Japanese Yen	129.60	129.55
European Currency Unit	1.2210	1.2205

^a USD Per STG
^b European Opening 10:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.25	5.18	5.43
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.12	10.12	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.12	9.25	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	8.06	7.81
French Franc	9.31	9.37	9.37	9.43
Japanese Yen	6.81	6.53	6.21	5.97
European Currency Unit	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	358.40	6.95	Silver	4.17	.095

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.687
Sterling Pound	1.1890	1.1949
Deutsche Mark	.4079	.4099
Swiss Franc	.4663	.4686
French Franc	.1197	.1203
Japanese Yen	.5285	.5311
Dutch Guilder	.3621	.3639
Swedish Krona	.1120	.1126
Italian Lira	.0546	.0549
Belgian Franc	.01981	.01991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7880	1.7960
Lebanese Lira	.0771	.0778
Saudi Riyal	.1824	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.1856	.1863
Egyptian Pound	.2070	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1856	.1863
Greek Drachma	.3650	.3750
Cypriot Pound	1.4500	1.4750

Index	5/10/91	Close	6/10/91	Close
All-Share	121.68		122.17	
Banking Sector	102.65		102.90	
Insurance Sector	122.64		122.67	
Industry Sector	150.72		151.74	
Services Sector	129.36		129.24	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday

One Sterling	1.7370/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1300/05	Canadian dollar
	1.6780/90	Deutsche marks
	1.8905/15	Dutch guilders
	1.4710/20	Swiss francs
	34.57/61	Belgian francs
	5.7200/50	French francs
	1255/1256	Italian lire
	129.45/55	Japanese yen
	6.1170/1230	Swedish crowns
	6.5630/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.4690/4740	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	358.60/359.10	U.S. dollars

Malaysia pushes for stronger ASEAN relations

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Dismal economic cooperation within the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) threatens its survival as a viable organisation, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Monday.

Mr. Mahathir spoke to ASEAN economic ministers who are preparing for a summit meeting in January of the group's heads of government, only the fourth in its 24-year history.

The summit comes at a time when ASEAN is under increasing criticism for failing to offer timely or innovative responses to the shifting economic and political conditions affecting South East Asia.

"It is now four years since the last ASEAN summit was held in which various proposals were made to promote further ASEAN economic cooperation. Unfortunately the pace of progress is still painfully slow," Mr. Mahathir said.

Comprising the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia, ASEAN was founded in 1967 to strengthen economic ties.

Except for the service and manufacturing centre of Singapore and the oil-based economy of Brunei, the others compete with mostly the same exports — palm oil, rubber, tin, coffee, tropical hardwoods and other commodities.

They also contend for the same type of foreign investment to develop manufacturing industries. The six pursue independent economic strategies based largely on free enterprise.

"For various reasons, ASEAN is still unable to overcome the hurdles that lay in the path of cooperation. We seem to lack the political courage needed to move ahead and implement cooperative projects that will benefit us in the long term," Mr. Mahathir said.

With a combined population of

Singapore Airlines expects growth from U.S., Europe

LOS ANGELES (R) — The growth of Singapore Airlines Ltd in its fiscal year 1992 will be fuelled by expanded traffic from the United States, the company's senior vice president for the Americas has said. "Our future expansion will come from traffic between Europe and the United States," Teng Ann Hwang told reporters at a news conference.

Mr. Hwang said North America's share of Singapore Air's total revenues will grow beyond the 20 per cent reported for the year ended March 31, 1991. However, he could not specify how much growth was expected.

Long-term growth will be aided by partnerships with Swissair Corp and Delta Air Lines, Mr. Hwang said. The three carriers are currently expanding joint reservations systems, marketing plans and cooperation on airport ordering to boost productivity and savings.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Shares fell amid uncertainty over interest rates and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's successor. The Nikkei average closed 266.07 points down at 24,330.83.

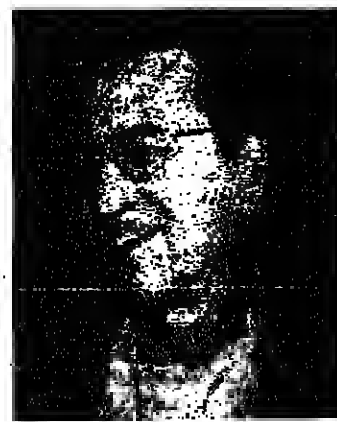
SYDNEY — Weaker offshore markets left Australian shares drifting lower in quiet trade. The All Ordinaries Index closed 7.8 points down at 1,579.2.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed slightly lower in thin trade. The Hang Seng Index finished 7.32 points down at 4,060.37.

SINGAPORE — Prices drifted down through the day in thin trading with most investors sidelined by a lack of new factors, brokers said. The Straits Times Index fell 7.04 to 1,345.26.

FRANKFURT — A small rally in German bond prices failed to awaken any latent interest in the stock market. The 30-share Dax index ended 13.07 points lower at 1,588.66, below the psychologically important 1,600 level.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended easier but off the day's low with stocks recovering from earlier losses largely for technical reasons. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index fell 3.5 points to 1,085.0.



Mahathir Mohamad

more than 320 million, the ASEAN nations' average gross domestic product grew by eight per cent last year, among the best growth rates in the world.

Trade with the rest of the world was \$268 billion last year, but trade within the group was only \$23.4 billion, or less than 10 per cent of total ASEAN trade.

Group decision-making is based on consensus, a lowest-common-denominator approach that often leaves it struggling to remain relevant in a period of rapid change in areas such as trade.

Mr. Mahathir said ASEAN's record of achievements, "particularly in the field of economic cooperation, has been dismal."

He urged the economic ministers to come up with bold recommendations "that will push ASEAN economic forward, and fast. This is crucial if ASEAN is to survive as a viable organisation in view of the dramatic changes that are occurring worldwide."

Thailand has proposed an ASEAN free trade area. The Philippines wants a treaty of economic cooperation as the blueprint for true cooperation. Indonesia suggests a "common effective preferential tariff" system to harmonise industrial tariffs.

Malaysia is pushing an east Asia economic group to serve as a consultative forum on international economic issues.

"Unless we have this group, ASEAN and everyone will be at the mercy of the trade blocs of Europe and Americans," Mr. Mahathir said.

Mr. Mahathir said "we will understand if consensual endorsement is not possible. Malaysia values its association and friendship with its South East Asian neighbours above everything else. It does not wish to be a cause of embarrassment to anyone."

TCC pursuing partial privatisation programme

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with increasing demands but lack of resources, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has come up with a scheme to involve private sector capital and revive shelved projects envisaged under the 1988-92 national development plan.

Under the scheme, the private sector is invited to invest in "revenue-sharing schemes" involving various TCC projects on the basis of specific agreements. Investors will get their money back along with profits throughout a certain agreed-upon period of the life-span of the project, which will then be transferred to complete TCC ownership.

"It is a semi-privatisation scheme," noted an economist. "The marked difference is that the projects will ultimately be totally TCC-owned although initial investment will not come from the corporation."

According to the TCC, the proffered "build-operate-transfer" projects were incorporated into the 1988-92 five-year plan after they were found financially viable but had to be shelved in

early 1989 due to the economic difficulties which hit Jordan.

Initial plans called for 240,000 additional telephone lines in the Kingdom. Subsequently, the target was scaled down in the face of lack of funds and then the plans were cancelled altogether after tenders were issued in 1989.

Under the plans, four distinct categories of projects were identified: Local line plant (heavy material), local line plant (services and accessories) switching equipment (supply and installation) and transmission equipment (supply and installation).

Studies undertaken by Swedtel, a consultant, and appraised by the World Bank had established that these projects would fetch a minimum of 25 per cent return on investments, says a fact sheet released by the government-owned corporation.

The TCC says it will welcome a company or consortium to undertake the projects and specifically mentions Mafraq and Maan as two immediate "best-suited" areas. In both governorates, existing TCC networks and equipment are outdated and need complete replacement.

Other projects that are open under the TCC scheme include

cellular module telephones, paging systems and pocket switching data network.

"The TCC does not possess at this stage a typical formula or model for the successful implementation of the scheme," the fact sheet says. "We are seeking to obtain more advice and information on the methodology and its mechanics."

More details of the scheme and projects offered by the TCC have already been presented to interested parties.

Industry sources say that several foreign companies, notably Japanese, could be interested in the TCC offer, particularly that repatriation of capital and profits are allowed under the scheme.

"The original plans were obviously drawn up taking into consideration the population growth and industrial expansion of Jordan as well as gaps in existing systems which needed plugging," said an industry source.

While there could be little doubt that the projects are financially viable, "potential investors will need iron-clad guarantees that the repatriation of their capital and returns will not pose a problem," added the source.

Forbes puts net worth of 400 wealthiest Americans at \$288b

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Sure the recession hurt some of America's wealthiest people. But most just kept getting richer.

Entertainment mogul John Warner Kluge is worth more than any other American for the third straight year. But computer whiz Bill Gates is closing the gap. Forbes magazine said in its 10th annual ranking of the richest.

Ford plans to double car exports

DEARBORN (AP) — Ford Motor Co. plans to double its exports of North American-built vehicles in coming years as it plays overseas cars to General Motors Corp. (G.M.) and Chrysler Corp.

Ford export sales general manager Robert Sparvero said the nation's No. 2 automaker behind G.M. plans to sell 50,000 North American-built vehicles overseas this year, and double that in later years.

Last year, Ford sold about 36,000 North American-made vehicles overseas.

G.M. plans to export about 102,000 North American-made cars and trucks and Chrysler expects to sell about 94,000 vehicles overseas this year.

The net worth of the 400 wealthiest Americans hit \$288 billion — the highest ever recorded by Forbes. The list appears in the magazine's Oct. 21 issue.

The recession made ex-moguls of some, mostly in real estate where values have dropped and vacancies skyrocketed, Forbes said in a report released Sunday. A record 71 billionaires populate the list, up from 66 last year and 13 in the magazine's first ranking in 1982.

Forty-seven names were dropped this year. Six died, including John Heinz III, who was killed in a plane crash, and CBS tycoon William Paley. Fifty-eight of the 400 are women. The list's average age is 64.

People with a net worth of \$275 million or more were rock bottom on Forbes' list — \$15 million more than last year.

The fortune of Mr. Kluge, a 77-year-old German immigrant who founded Metromedia Co., is an estimated \$5.9 billion, up \$300 million from last year, Forbes said.

No. 2 is William Henry Gates III, 35, a Harvard University dropout who in 1975 formed Microsoft, now the biggest computer software maker. The bulk of his estimated worth of \$4.8 billion comes from company stock, Forbes said. Last year, he was ranked 16th with \$2.5 billion.

Mr. Gates replaces Warren Buffett, the Nebraska investor who was tapped to clean up

scandal-tainted Salomon Inc. Mr. Buffett's estimated stock-market fortune grew to \$4.2 billion from \$3.3 billion, but he slipped to eighth on the list.

Ahead of him are Wal-Mart Stores Inc. founder Sam Moore Walton and his family. Mr. Walton divided his wealth equally among himself and his four children. Each is estimated to be worth \$4.4 billion.

Next are industrialist Henry Lea Hillman, \$3.3 billion; Amway Corp. partners Richard Marvin DeVos and Jay Van Andel, \$2.9 billion each and publishing brothers Samuel I. Newhouse Jr. and Donald Newhouse, \$2.8 billion apiece.

Others on the list are: Carnival Cruise Lines founder Ted Arison, cable television mogul Ted Turner, investor Kirk Kerkorian, record producer David Geffen, and heiress Doris Duke.

The list also names fashion designer Ralph Lauren, financier Carl Icahn, investor Roy Disney, Penthouse magazine's Bob Guccione, movie cowboy Gene Autry, leveraged buyout partners Henry Kravis and George Roberts, game show producer Mark Goodson and winemakers Ernest and Julio Gallo.

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Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Oct 3, 1991
THE OPENING OF
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Starring: The family of 'Abu Awwad neighbourhood'
Shows start at 8:30 every evening

Croatian president: Army set to destroy Zagreb

LC ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Mu Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said Monday that federal hit Yugoslav troops were at the gates of his breakaway republic's capital at Zagreb and intended to destroy it.

"The army is intensifying its aggression from all sides, not only sea on old fronts but also in front of Zagreb," he told reporters.

Dr. Tudjman said that if Zagreb was attacked it would be "one out more pearl in its (the army's) State necklace of devastation of Croatian towns."

He added: "Their aims to destroy the city (Zagreb) as well as lead Dubrovnik are becoming clear. The Adriatic port of Dubrovnik has been under army siege for almost a week."

Earlier Monday, the army's fourth deputy commander for the district that includes Zagreb said an army attack on the city of more than one million people could be imminent.

Dr. Tudjman's news conference was held during the ninth air raid alert in the Croatian capital (since Sunday). Detonations to the west could be clearly heard from the city centre.

Croatian fighters have sealed off all approaches to Zagreb, confining army units in garrisons besieged by Croatian forces.

might try to break out to seize the city.

"This war has been forced on us but we now have to behave according to the rules of war," Dr. Tudjman said, adding that this did not mean all peaceful avenues had been shut.

He repeated calls for the dispatch of the U.S. Sixth Fleet to the Adriatic, and for European countries to close military airspace over Yugoslavia.

He said he had put the requests formally to Washington and the European Community.

Dr. Tudjman defended the siege of army garrisons, saying Croatia needed weapons which he claimed had originally belonged to Croatian territorial forces.

He would not rule out the possibility of attacks on barracks. "We must get weapons in order to face the aggressor and finally break the brunt of its attack," Dr. Tudjman said.

He said the federal authorities had rejected his proposal for a ceasefire and lifting the blockade of army barracks.

"They (federal troops) can't walk around freely in Croatia and that the same time carry on their offensive actions. Militarily, it's an impossibility," he added.

Gen. Andrija Raseta, deputy

commander of the Fifth Military District which included Croatia, told reporters in Zagreb he was not certain of the timing of an assault "but it is not improbable that it may happen during this day."

Gen. Raseta said he had told his commander and the federal army high command that "they should continue with their intentions."

He said a barracks at Samobor, just west of the Croatian capital, was attacked by Croatian forces on Sunday evening and surrendered Monday after fierce fighting, with at least two federal soldiers killed and nine wounded.

A second base at Velika Buna, just south of Zagreb, was also under attack and resisting, he said.

Gen. Raseta said he had tried to obtain a ceasefire at both places in talks with Croatian Prime Minister Franjo Greguric but firing in the barracks had continued despite a Croatian undertaking to stop.

"After all that has been happening, the possibility (of an attack on Zagreb) cannot be excluded," Gen. Raseta said.

"It would seem very obvious that there is no one left to talk with."

Asked if only vital installations



A Croatian National Guard runs for cover during clashes with the Yugoslav army.

in Zagreb would be attacked. Gen. Raseta replied: "I am no longer able to say."

The streets of Zagreb were protected Monday with new barricades erected overnight, raising anxiety among residents about an imminent attack following eight air-raid alerts since Sunday morning.

Heavy trucks had been positioned across a road close to Gen. Raseta's military headquarters.

"I think that we are being held hostage so as to avoid Zagreb being attacked. I am not sure that that is any guarantee," Gen.

Raseta said.

He said army attacks on the Adriatic port cities of Dubrovnik and Split would also continue.

The Soviet Union said Monday it had information that the Yugoslav army was about to launch an offensive against towns and cities in Croatia.

"The reports we are receiving about the continually expanding military operations in Croatia give us very serious and growing cause for alarm," said a Soviet Foreign Ministry statement, quoted by Soviet News Agency (TASS).

Turkish attaché shot dead in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Gunmen killed a Turkish attaché official Monday as he left home for work in Athens, police said.

The embassy identified him as Deputy press attaché Cetin Gorkan, 28, based in Greece since October 1989.

Police said two men shot Gorkan several times as he sat in his large white Mercedes car outside his home in the central Athens district of Pangrati.

The gunman escaped on a motorcycle into the heavy early morning traffic of Athens.

The attack bore the hallmarks of the leftist November 17 guerrillas who have killed 16 Greeks and 10 Americans in Athens since 24 December 1975.

On November 17 has often denounced the Turkish invasion of Northern Cyprus in July 1974, and called for the withdrawal of Turkish troops still occupying a third of that island.

The guerrillas struck just as the trial of a Palestinian, Mohammad al-Tashid, charged with a mid-air

bomb attack on a Pan American airliner, was opening on the opposite side of town amid heavy security measures.

Greek-Turkish relations have been under more strain than usual after a failed meeting between Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis and Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz in Paris last month.

The meeting was meant to pave the way for a conference on the vexed issue of Cyprus, which has poisoned relations between the two NATO allies, but it ended with mutual recriminations.

Mr. Mitsotakis is due to fly to Istanbul Tuesday to attend the funeral of the ecumenical patriarch of the world's Eastern Orthodox Churches, Dimitrios I, who died last week.

Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Gorgu expressed deep concern at Mr. Gorgu's killing and called on the Greek authorities to give Turkish diplomats better protection.

"Our diplomatic staff in Greece should be under Greek

government protection," he told reporters in Ankara. "It is their responsibility... we expect them to assume this responsibility more seriously."

On July 16 Turkish diplomat Deniz Bohukbasi, his driver and a woman embassy official were wounded in Athens when a remote-control bomb exploded near their car.

Caramanlis leaves hospital

President Constantine Caramanlis left a hospital Monday after two days of tests for a heart ailment.

The 84-year-old president was admitted to the Hygieia Hospital Saturday after doctors found that he had unstable blood pressure and slight heart irregularities.

His doctors said Sunday that he was well.

"I feel very well, and if anyone doubts it I challenge him to wrestle with me," Mr. Caramanlis said to reporters as he left the hospital.

German pioneers in cell research get Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded Monday to two Germans whose pioneering research in basic cell functioning helped biologists understand such diseases as diabetes and cystic fibrosis.

Erwin Neher and Bert Sakmann have "revolutionised modern biology, facilitated research, and contributed to the understanding of the cellular mechanisms underlying several diseases," said the Nobel Assembly of the Karolinska Institute, which awarded the prize.

Dr. Neher, 47, and Dr. Sakmann, 49, who will share the 6 million kroner (\$1 million) prize, are cell physiologists who began receiving recognition for their work in the late 1970s.

They discovered how tunnel-like structures called ion channels regulate the passage in and out of cells of positively or negatively charged particles called ions, the assembly said.

Dr. Neher works at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Goettingen, Germany, and Dr. Sakmann, 49, works at the Max Planck Institute for Medicine Research in Heidelberg, Germany.

"They conclusively established that ion channels do exist, and how they function," said the assembly. "They together developed a technique that allows the registration of the incredibly small electrical currents... that pass through a single ion channel."

Japan wrong to link Soviet aid to islands row — Watanabe

TOKYO (R) — Japan's government was wrong when it blocked badly needed aid to the Soviet Union pending resolution of a long-running territorial dispute, one of the men battling to be the next Japanese premier said Monday.

"Japan should help the Soviet Union when it is in serious trouble. This approach must be better," former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe, one of three declared candidates in the Oct. 27 ballot to replace Premier Toshiki Kaifu, told a news conference.

As he spoke, leaders of the ruling party's largest faction, led by ex-Premier Noboru Takeshita, agreed to field their own candidate in the fight for the party leadership and turn it into a four-horse race.

The leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) became premier by virtue of the party's majority in parliament.

News reports said former party Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa, recovering from a mild heart attack in June, was being pressured to enter the fray.

Asian 'peace dividend' could reach \$150 billion

MANILA (R) — Asian countries could save \$150 billion in the next decade as a "peace dividend" from the ending of the cold war by freezing military spending at current levels, a United Nations adviser said Monday.

Mahbub ul Haq, a senior official in the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), said Asian nations should cash in on the end of the cold war by freezing military spending and diverting the money saved to improve health and education and to combat deep-rooted poverty.

Asian nations spend \$65 billion a year on their armed forces and import \$11 billion worth of weapons, he said.

"Soldiers outnumber teachers in many countries; Afghanistan and Laos have twice as many soldiers as teachers, Vietnam three times as many," he said at the start of a five-day regional conference organised by the U.N.'s Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The ending of the cold war had opened a new opportunity for the major powers to switch military assistance into economic aid and restrict sales of weapons, he said.

"If the Asian countries manage to freeze their military spending increases in the 1990s — not to cut them by 3.0 to 4.0 per cent every year as industrial nations are beginning to do, just to freeze them — it will potentially create a peace dividend of around \$150 billion over the next decade," Mr. Haq said.

Philippine President Corason Aquino, opening the 40-nation

ministerial conference, said that with the ending of the cold war, countries of the region should shift from defence spending to put new emphasis on development.

"We cannot ignore the fact that simultaneous with the robust growth performance of the 'tiger' economies in the Asia-Pacific basin is the spread of poverty," he said. The tiger economies are Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore.

"With poverty comes a chain of social problems: The breakdown of family systems, industrial and social unrest, crime and delinquency," he said.

The conference is expected to adopt a strategy to combat poverty, while improving education, health and other aspects of social development by the year 2000.

Mr. Haq said a freeze on defence spending would be enough to finance major development goals — universal access to basic education, primary health care for all, elimination of serious malnutrition and provision of safe drinking water.

To achieve these goals by the year 2000 would cost an extra \$14 billion a year for the region, he said.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a message to the conference that Asia's economic boom over the past three decades had failed to curb widespread poverty, and the number of people living "on the margin of survival" was growing.

Asia's economic dynamism was clouded by lagging social de-

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Boat people protest in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — More than 10,000 Vietnamese marched through Hong Kong's biggest camp for boat people Monday to protest against any plan to send them home by force, the government said. "It was a peaceful demonstration," a spokesman for the Correctional Services (prison) Department said. "At one stage over 10,000 Vietnamese were involved. They... put up banners, marched around (and) shouted slogans basically opposing forced repatriation." Tension has mounted in Hong Kong camps, home to about 64,000 boat people, amid speculation that forced repatriation would soon resume after a single flight in December, 1989 provoked an international outcry. The demonstration at Whitehead Camp, where nearly 24,000 boat people live, lasted for one hour before the protesters returned to their dormitories, spokesman Patrick Wong said.

Soviet singer killed during concert

MOSCOW (R) — A popular Soviet singer, Igor Talkov, was shot dead Sunday while giving a concert in St. Petersburg, Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported. It said an unidentified person shot Talkov, 35, in the heart at point-blank range in St. Petersburg's Palace of Sport. "In the ensuing panic the assassin managed to escape," TASS said. It gave no further details. Talkov's songs about social problems and the Russian heritage were set to modern pop rhythms and gained him a large following, especially among teenagers. He played the lead in a newly-finished historical film, The Silver Prince, which is yet to be released.

Pik Botha arrives in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha arrived in Australia Monday to angry protests but said he had not come to hand to seek the lifting of sanctions. Mr. Botha's three-day visit, only the second visit by a South African cabinet minister in 20 years, opened with a noisy airport demonstration by about 40 placard-waving demonstrators. One woman hammered her fist on Mr. Botha's limousine as it left the international terminal but police said there were no arrests. "I won't be coming to Australia to score anti-sanctions points, I am not on an anti-sanctions campaign," Mr. Botha told an airport news conference. Australia, which has been one of the harshest critics of the South African government, has said it will support the lifting of a first phase of sanctions in the wake of this year's repeal of the main apartheid laws. But it will act without a similar Commonwealth agreement at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Harare later this month, according to government sources. "I have made it quite clear I have come to talk to the Australian people directly to point out the difficulties facing us in Africa and South Africa," Mr. Botha said.

Poison gas cloud kills 28 in China

PEKING (R) — At least 20 people died after chemical gas from a leaking tanker truck drifted over villages in south east China. Villagers were asleep when the deadly cloud, escaped from the tanker as it drove down a highway near the town of Shangrao in Jiangxi province last month, according to the latest edition of the China Society newspaper. More than 300 people were affected, the paper said. The chemical, used in agriculture, leaked after a safety valve on the tanker was damaged by tree branches. The accident occurred on Sept. 3, and within three days 28 people had died, the paper said. A member of the investigating team contacted Monday said he believed the death toll had since risen, but he could give no figures. Troops trained in handling chemicals rushed to the scene to plug the leak and evacuate villagers, the paper said.

Contra rebels form political party

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (R) — Nicaragua's former contra rebels have formed a political party to oppose the leftist Sandinistas they fought on the battlefield for eight years, former rebels said Sunday. The formerly U.S.-financed contras said the Party of the Nicaraguan Resistance would build a national platform to try to win support from ex-rebels throughout the country. They said the party had over 5,000 members and represented a step towards resolving the war-ravaged country's problems politically rather than with violence. "We can't live in war all the time," said party president Luis Angel Lopez, known during the past war between the contras and Sandinistas as "Commander Leonel." Party leaders, including other former commanders in the contra army, said the party would serve as an alternative to the ruling centre-right National Opposition Union in fighting the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

14 militiamen killed in Peru

AYACUCHO, Peru (R) — Maoist guerrillas killed 14 members of self-defence militias in the Andean highland villages in a wave of violence running up to an "armed strike," officials and witnesses said. About 200 guerrillas Sunday raided the village of Rumiñasi in Ayacucho province, 470 kilometres southeast of Lima, killing nine members of the town's self-defence militia and wounding four others, witnesses said.

COLUMN

Liz Taylor marries husband No. 7

LOS OLIVOS, California (R) — A tearful Elizabeth Taylor on Sunday married husband number seven, construction worker Larry Fortensky, on a carpet of flowers in a million-dollar ranch ceremony. With 80 security guards and mounted policemen keeping out unwanted guests and a barrage of red and white balloons strung 150 metres over the wedding ceremony to prevent news helicopters coming close, the actress quietly said "I do" for the eighth time. Wearing a wedding gown of three shades of yellow, Ms. Taylor, 59, had tears in her eyes during the ceremony and was comforted by Mr. Fortensky, 20 years her junior. The ceremony was held in a gazebo by a swan lake on the ranch of rock star Michael Jackson. Ms. Taylor met Mr. Fortensky at the Betty Ford Centre for drug and alcohol treatment, outside Palm Springs, California, three years ago. She has had six previous husbands, marrying Welsh actor Richard Burton twice.

Fashion fit for red light district

MILAN, Italy (AP) — The "moda Milanese" for the spring-summer 1992 got off to a hot start Sunday, with Dolce and Gabbana collection more suited for a red light district than a fashion runway. High-heeled, heavily made up, a cigarette dangling from the lips, the models showed off their million-dollar bodies — that's how much the top models bank roll these days — in bustiers, bandos, bras, corsets, girdles, garter belts, and hold up stockings in De Rigueur black, candid white or flaming red. The outfits were fine for a porno star contest, or a lingerie catalogue, but hardly suited for the conventional working woman's wardrobe. This is not to say that the collection was cheap, not in price tag — a little summer bra top in interlaced straw blades sells for just under \$300 — or in design. The corsets were adorned with trinkets stolen from the decoration of a Sicilian cart, hot pants were seamed in strings of pearls, bra tops were trimmed with tiny multi-coloured glass fruits. Dolce and Gabbana say their collection was inspired by such sex symbols as Sofia Loren, Gina Lollobrigida and Rita Hayworth, whose first names also appeared in red sequins on clinging hot pants' deniers, but they failed to credit Carol Baker for the baby doll dresses in fluffy pastel coloured tulle.

Nudist makes no exception for daughter's wedding

JAKARTA (R) — An Indonesian villager who lives in the nude made no exception for his daughter's wedding. But no one objected when 46-year-old Sabahan arrived undressed for the wedding, the Jakarta Post newspaper said Monday. "It's not clothes, but the heart that counts," says Mr. Sabahan, who lives in a village in East Java. His fellow villagers have accepted his nakedness, although conservative covering is the norm in Indonesia.

World AIDS toll now up to 1.5 million worldwide — WHO

GENEVA (R) — About 1.5 million people, a third of them children, have now developed full-blown AIDS, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said. Presenting its first quarterly update of AIDS cases, WHO said 418,403 cases had been reported to date, an increase of 46,600 since July 1. But taking into account under-reporting and delays in reporting, the Geneva-based body said it believed about 1.5 million people had already developed the disease. AIDS is a late stage of infection with the HIV virus, taking an average of 10 years to reach, WHO estimates between nine and 11 million people have so far been infected with the HIV virus, mainly through sexual intercourse. AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) strips the body of its immunity leaving it vulnerable to a host of dangerous illnesses from pneumonia to rare cancer. "We need to step up our prevention campaigns if we are to slow the alarming growth of the pandemic," said Dr. Michael Merson, director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS. "With every day that passes, 5,000 people worldwide become infected with the virus. Young people and adults alike need frank and clear information about how they can protect themselves."

Haitian parliament weighs naming provisional president

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — The Haitian parliament has rejected a call to reinstate President Jean-Bertrand Aristide a week after a military coup ousted the Caribbean nation's first democratically-elected leader.

Mr. Aristide is in the United States, where he is trying to rally international support to regain power. An Organisation of American States (OAS) diplomatic team has tried to persuade the military junta to allow Mr. Aristide back.

Haiti's political crisis deepened Monday after parliament rebuffed the diplomatic initiative seeking his return and instead debated a plan to make a provisional president.

Parliament went into an extraordinary session Sunday with the backing of the army which allied for the meeting on military-controlled radio. Lawmakers were expected to meet again Monday to vote on a provisional president.

Deputies representing more than a dozen parties spent most of Sunday inside the National Assembly palace, a modest two-

storey building, debating various options.

"The people are absent from the discussions but present in the cemetery," commented French Ambassador Jean-Raphael Dufour.

He was referring to the estimated 250 dead since the army deposed Mr. Aristide last Monday. Human rights workers have said the exact death toll could be much higher.

One legislator insisted that news reports of street violence and deaths were exaggerated. "Even if 5,000 are killed in the streets, Aristide should not come back to Haiti," the member of the lower house said.

The overwhelming majority of the assembly was willing to accept the army's contention that Mr. Aristide resigned from his elected office and no coup had occurred, according to an informal poll taken by legislative sources at the meeting.

"Since there was no coup, we have to find a solution to this power vacuum," said one member of parliament.

Attempt to impeach Sri Lankan government fails

COLOMBO (R) — An attempt to impeach Sri Lankan President Ransinghe Premadasa has failed, his office said Monday.

An impeachment motion submitted in August by the opposition and a group of rebel legislators from Mr. Premadasa's ruling United Nations Party (UNP) was rejected by the speaker of parliament, the president's office said in a statement.

Speaker Haniffa Mohammad told Mr. Premadasa "the resolution does not have the required number of valid signatures and that accordingly the resolution will not be proceeded with," the statement said.

The motion, which had plunged Sri Lanka into a constitutional crisis, accused Mr. Premadasa of abusing his powers and violating the constitution.